

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 49 (Canceled).

50 (New). A method comprising

providing a heart implant sized and configured to be positioned in a left atrium above the plane of a native mitral heart valve annulus having leaflets, the implant including a portion sized and configured to interact with movement of the leaflets of the mitral heart valve to affect mitral heart valve function

establishing an intravascular access path that extends from a right atrium through a septum and into a left atrium,

deploying the implant through the intravascular path into the left atrium, and

positioning the implant in the left atrium above the plane of the native mitral valve annulus such that the portion interacts with movement of the leaflets of the mitral heart valve to affect mitral heart valve function.

51 (New). A method according to claim 50

wherein the implant is positioned so that the portion spans the left atrium.

52 (New). A method according to claim 50

wherein the implant is positioned so that the portion changes the shape of the native mitral heart valve annulus.

53 (New). A method according to claim 50

wherein the heart implant comprises, at least in part, nitinol, dacron, polytetrafluoroethylene, silicon, polyurethane, human pericardium, or animal pericardium.

54 (New). A method according to claim 50

wherein the heart implant comprises, at least in part, a super elastic material.